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arisen. Austria had gained sovereignty and the Geneva Conference had led to a general relaxation of tension between the East and the West. The new political situation required the cooperation of all peace-loving elements, and for that reason the Gemeindewahlen in the GDR had to be postponed. It was not true that the SED had demanded from the government the abolition of the Gemeindewahlen, because it feared that an election on the basis of different party lists might entail a defeat of the SED candidates.

5. The speech was followed by a violent discussion on the principal question of the so-called Parteiauftrage (Party orders). A large majority of the Party functionaries attending this conference flatly rejected the system of the Parteiauftrag, the introduction of which had been decided upon during the LDP party rally in Weimar. They expressed their indignation that such a revolutionary step had been taken against the will of the Party organizations and without informing them in advance. They declared that the Party leaders were apparently hoping that they could forestall the decline of the Party which had its cause in the corruption of the liberal Party program rather than in the inactivity of the Party members. Was it not enough that the LDP had tried to woo the SED? If it tried to adapt its own organization to that of the SED, This would mean the end of the Party.

Comment. This report shows clearly the difficult situation of the small bourgeois parties. The party leaders are apparently convinced that the only way to stop the decline of the Party is to assimilate it into the SED. The violent opposition to this tendency and the request of the Party leaders for more State loyalty prove that the spirit of resistance is still present in the LDP. According to other information available, the situation of the CDU in the GDR is similar to that of the LDP.

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